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Addendum

Implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem

1. At its 6th and 7th meetings, on 14 March 2018, the Commission considered agenda item 6, which read as follows:

> "Implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem:
>
> (a) Demand reduction and related measures;
>
> (b) Supply reduction and related measures;
>
> (c) Countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation to enhance international cooperation."

2. For its consideration of item 6, the Commission had before it the following:

(a) Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2018/2-E/CN.15/2018/2);

(b) Report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug abuse (E/CN.7/2018/4);

(c) Report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking (E/CN.7/2018/5);

(d) Report of the Executive Director on action taken by Member States to implement the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem (E/CN.7/2018/6);

(e) Note by the Secretariat on promoting coordination and alignment of decisions between the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (E/CN.7/2018/7);

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(f) Report of the Executive Director on responding to the prevalence of HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases among drug users (E/CN.7/2018/8);

(g) Report of the Secretariat on strengthening international cooperation in combating illicit opiates originating in Afghanistan through continuous and reinforced support to the Paris Pact initiative (E/CN.7/2018/11);

(h) Conference room paper on expert consultations on improving drug statistics and strengthening the annual report questionnaire held from 29 to 31 January 2018 (E/CN.7/2018/CRP.2).

3. Introductory statements were made by the Chief of the Research and Trend Analysis Branch, the Chief of the Drug Prevention and Health Branch, the Chief of the Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch, the Paris Pact Coordinator and a representative of the Sustainable Livelihoods Unit of UNODC.

4. A representative of the scientific community made a statement. The Commission also viewed a video message by a representative of the scientific community. A statement was made by representatives of the UNODC Youth Forum.

5. Statements were made by the representatives of the Sudan, Croatia, Japan, Colombia, China, South Africa, Canada, the Republic of Korea, Thailand, Algeria, Mexico, Switzerland, the United States of America and El Salvador.

6. Statements were also made by the observers for Zambia, Namibia, Malaysia, Turkey, Nigeria, Morocco, Serbia, Indonesia and Egypt.

7. The observer for the State of Palestine made a statement.

8. The observers for the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the United Nations Development Programme made statements.

9. A statement was made by the observer for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

10. Statements were made by the observers for Asociación Proyecto Hombre, the International Harm Reduction Association, the International Drug Policy Consortium and the Community Alliances for Drug Free Youth.

A. Deliberations

11. Several speakers reaffirmed their countries' commitment to the three international drug control conventions and to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, the 2014 Joint Ministerial Statement and the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016. Several speakers noted that those three documents were complementary and mutually reinforcing and that future action should be in furtherance of the goals and objectives of the three international drug control conventions.

12. Several speakers highlighted the importance of the outcome document of the special session and expressed their commitment to continuing to address the world drug problem in a balanced, integrated and comprehensive manner, including by strengthening cooperation on the basis of common and shared responsibility. The importance of an approach that balanced demand and supply reduction efforts was highlighted, as was the need to take into account the new realities faced by the international community.

13. It was noted that the outcome document of the special session provided a basis for enhancing the capacities of regional and subregional organizations to assist Member States in fulfilling the targets and goals set out in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action. A number of speakers referred to the achievements made by their Governments in achieving those targets and goals and, in that regard, reference was made by some speakers to the need to extend the target date beyond 2019. A number

of speakers referred to the relevance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in addressing the world drug problem.

14. A number of speakers welcomed the report of the Executive Director on the action taken by Member States to implement the Political Declaration and Plan of Action. Reference was made by several speakers to the remaining challenges and obstacles with regard to implementing the goals and objectives and, in that regard, it was noted by one speaker that the data should be complemented by an impact analysis.

15. One speaker noted that an assessment of the achievements made by 2019 would show that the international community had not been able to curtail drug production and consumption and that unrealistic targets should be avoided. The speaker noted that, accordingly, no countries should be assessed on the basis of levels of illicit cultivation and acreage, as that would be inaccurate.

16. Several speakers highlighted the need for continued efforts to enhance collaboration and coordination between relevant United Nations agencies, within their respective mandates, in their efforts to address and counter the world drug problem.

17. The international community was called upon to cooperate and counter the increase in drug trafficking, and UNODC was called upon to assist States in that regard by providing technical assistance and capacity-building support.

18. A number of speakers referred to the goal of their Governments of achieving a society free from drug abuse and referred to their zero-tolerance approach to drug trafficking and manufacturing. One speaker noted that the same strategies were not applicable to all countries and that the actual drug situation, as well as social and cultural factors, should be taken into account in that regard.

19. Support was expressed by a number of speakers for the efforts of the international community, as well as those of the Commission, in working towards improving public health services while maintaining the highest human rights standards.

1. Demand reduction and related measures

20. Many speakers emphasized the need for comprehensive, balanced and integrated approaches to demand reduction, and reported on efforts to enhance cooperation among health, education, law enforcement and other stakeholders in implementing health- and human rights-centred interventions. Reference was made to the provisions relating to drug demand reduction contained in the outcome document of the special session, as well as to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

21. The need for community-level interventions to respond effectively to the opioid epidemic and the need to provide treatment as an alternative to incarceration were raised. Reference was made to prevention activities based on education, family and community; such activities included the use of online media platforms and awareness-raising campaigns. The importance of pharmacological and psychosocial treatment and the provision of gender-sensitive services was underlined. Ongoing efforts to train relevant service providers and measures taken to strengthen data on drug use and health consequences were also emphasized.

22. Several speakers welcomed initiatives to improve the quality of drug use prevention and treatment, including with reference to relevant standards published by UNODC and the World Health Organization. One speaker expressed his Government's concern that the *International Standards for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders* did not include references to heroin-assisted treatment programmes.

23. Some speakers referred to the implementation of harm reduction interventions as part of comprehensive, evidence-based public health measures to effectively reduce the transmission of HIV and hepatitis among people who use drugs. Other speakers noted that harm reduction interventions should not be recommended to all countries.

24. One speaker stressed that unilateral approaches to demand reduction, such as the legalization of cannabis, should be avoided in view of the impact that such measures had on neighbouring countries and regions.

25. The importance of gender mainstreaming was also stressed, including in prisons, as was close coordination and collaboration among the criminal justice, health, social and other sectors and with civil society for the delivery of HIV prevention, treatment and care among people who use drugs.

26. Some speakers referred to the need to address the issue of the stigmatization of drug users and emphasized the importance of ensuring that interventions were tailored to women, while also taking into account cultural factors.

27. The need to promote international cooperation and technical assistance, including by UNODC and other relevant stakeholders, with a view to building the capacity of experts in countries in different areas of demand reduction was emphasized by many speakers.

2. Supply reduction and related measures

28. Several speakers called for improved cooperation between national authorities and regional and international organizations. Closer cooperation between prosecutorial and law enforcement authorities and financial intelligence units was encouraged by several speakers. Many speakers underlined the need for real-time exchange of information and criminal intelligence and stressed the importance of multilateral joint operations to effectively counter drug trafficking and related matters. The need for effective measures to counteract the illicit cultivation, manufacture and distribution of drugs was highlighted by several speakers.

29. A number of speakers referred to the continued manufacture and proliferation of new psychoactive substances, as well as the serious threat posed by amphetamine-type stimulants in their countries and regions. Some speakers noted that the urgency of supply reduction efforts had been underlined by the high number of opioid-related overdoses and deaths. A number of speakers referred to the challenges posed by the increasing abuse of and trafficking in tramadol, which, in their view, should be placed under international control.

30. Reference was made to new patterns of drug manufacturing and trafficking and the need for national authorities to adopt innovative approaches in that regard. Reference was also made by some speakers to efforts to disrupt maritime drug trafficking. A number of speakers referred to the increasing use of postal and courier services by drug traffickers.

31. Reference was made by several speakers to the utility of the PEN Online system. Relevant national authorities were called upon to put in place measures to actively monitor and control the import, export and distribution of drug precursor chemicals in their countries and to work with private sector companies in that regard. Reference was also made to the utility of the early warning advisory system and Project ION.

32. Several speakers provided information on efforts taken at the national level to counter drug trafficking, including dismantling criminal networks, carrying out seizures and confiscations and participating in joint investigations. Some speakers referred to the challenges posed by cannabis cultivation and trafficking in their countries.

33. It was noted that the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, together with commitments by Governments and other stakeholders, would result in more effective and sustainable alternative development programmes. A number of speakers referred to their efforts to strengthen their alternative development programmes, including preventive alternative development programmes, and to share lessons learned, best practices and expertise.

34. Speakers reaffirmed the need for integrated medium- and long-term strategies in the area of alternative development, calling for support from the

international community and the opening of international markets to alternative development products.

3. Countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation to enhance international cooperation

35. Several speakers referred to the link between drug trafficking and transnational organized crime and drew attention to the fact that it posed serious challenges in their countries. Several speakers stressed that increased and effective international cooperation, as well as enhanced cooperation and networks at the regional level, were needed in order to effectively address the world drug problem and address factors that undermined security, health and the socioeconomic well-being of people. The need to establish viable cooperation networks and the important role of UNODC and the Commission in that regard was stressed. A number of speakers referred to the bilateral cooperation agreements that their countries had concluded.

36. Some speakers stressed that asset recovery remained a major challenge and highlighted the important role that asset recovery inter-agency networks, such as the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Southern Africa and the Asset Recovery Interagency Network for Asia and the Pacific, played in capacity-building and asset management policies. Several speakers mentioned the importance of inter-agency collaboration to effectively combat drug trafficking, including money-laundering, and referred to the use of money-laundering by criminals engaged in drug trafficking, firearms trafficking, financial crime, terrorism and other forms of crime. In that regard, collaboration among the financial intelligence units of countries was stressed. The activities of the Financial Action Task Force were mentioned by some speakers.

37. Several speakers referred to the importance of judicial cooperation at the regional and subregional levels, including best practices and information-sharing. The need to further promote cooperation among UNODC and other relevant United Nations entities, international and regional organizations was highlighted by several speakers. Reference was made to the active engagement by Member States in various regional mechanisms.

38. A number of speakers cautioned that new technologies, such as cryptocurrencies, posed significant risks to their financial systems and said that collective efforts were required to combat them.